

RESOLUTION NO. 34 -2015

EXPRESSING the support of the Mayor and City Council for the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority's efforts to obtain approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to become a Moving-to-Work public housing authority, allowing implementation of several initiatives to improve low-income housing in Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, since 1996 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") has sponsored Moving-to-Work ("MTW"), a demonstration program for public housing authorities that gives them exemptions from many existing public housing and voucher rules and provides more flexibility with how they use their federal funds, with the expectation that MTW public housing authorities will use the opportunities presented by MTW to inform HUD about ways to better address local community needs; and

WHEREAS, the MTW program has had proven success in cities of varying size and located in different regions of the country, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Louisville, Portland, and Santa Clara; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority ("CMHA") has designed a five-year MTW action plan which includes several initiatives modifying the City's low-income housing approach, which are designed to improve cost effectiveness, encourage self-sufficiency of low-income residents, and increase housing choices; and

WHEREAS, the MTW program would allow CMHA to experiment with new approaches to public housing problems by taking advantage of applicable exemptions to federal rules, not only providing an opportunity for innovation in Cincinnati but also creating a potential for that innovation to influence low-income housing policies nationwide; and

WHEREAS, HUD would have to approve CMHA's plan prior to implementation and would provide advice to CMHA, and CMHA would produce an annual report to HUD regarding the progress and results of the program over the course of the five-year period; and

WHEREAS, CMHA estimates that receiving MTW program status and implementing its proposed initiatives would save \$2 million annually for the next five years for a total of \$10 million total savings; and

WHEREAS, if CMHA is accepted as an MTW program, examples of its proposed initiatives to improve efficiency include: combining public housing funds into a single fund to provide greater flexibility, consolidating multiple existing programs into a single affordable housing program, reducing the frequency of certification for tenants in low-income housing programs, and creating a landlord incentive program; and

WHEREAS, CMHA's proposed initiatives to increase self-sufficiency of low-income residents include: comprehensive rent reform, a work requirement for all non-elderly and non-

disabled adult residents, a scholarship program, mandatory enrollment in a savings account program, implementing a regional housing approach, and creating a rapid response center; and

WHEREAS, the proposed initiatives for increasing housing choices include: a homeownership development program, new options for low-income students including vouchers, other special purpose vouchers such as for victims of domestic violence, changes to the procurement process for construction activities, and a renewed focus on "hard to house" populations such as the homeless, the disabled, and veterans; and

WHEREAS, CMHA's participation in the MTW program is in accordance with the Guiding Policy Principles to "Be Recognized" and to "Spend public funds more strategically" as described on pages 76 and 79 of Plan Cincinnati, and the "Live" goal to "Provide a full spectrum of housing options, and improve housing quality and affordability" as described on page 164 of Plan Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council express their desire for approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority to become a Moving-to-Work public housing authority.

Section 2. That the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council support the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority's proposed initiatives to improve the manner in which public housing benefits and programs are used for low-income residents in the City of Cincinnati, which initiatives could prove reproducible in other cities in the United States.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that copies be sent to Secretary Julian Castro and Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Sandra B. Henriquez, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410.

Passed: April 22, 2015

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Wendell Young